



WHITE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Overview

- ★ Define White-American as defined by DOD Dir. 1350.2
- ★ Describe the origins of White American and the different groups in Colonial America
- ★ Define the different types of immigration and the impact on individuals
- ★ Explain European American common experience and displacement
- ★ Define Redemptioners

Definition

WHITE-AMERICAN
(not of Hispanic origin)

Is a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or Middle East

Original White Americans

Three areas of the world

- ✿ North Africa related to the Berbers
 - ✿ Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya
- ✿ Northwestern Europe
 - ✿ Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, and Wales
- ✿ Southwestern Europe
 - ✿ Austria, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Spain, USSR, and Yugoslavia

Definition

ANGLO-SAXON AND WHITE ANGLO-SAXON PROTESTANT (WASP)

Is a person of a Caucasoid, northern European, largely protestant stock whose members are held by some to constitute the most privileged and influential group in US. society. In the new-world, they were the landlord and their culture and values with rare exception, were those that defined the culture.

Basic Culture and Values

- * Handwork- craftsman
- * Perseverance - The new world will survive
- * Self-Reliance
- * Puritanism - Self worth, handwork and success as it's own reward, mission to make the world a better place
- * Missionary spirit - Own religious beliefs
- * Abstract rule of the law
- * Consider themselves founders, settlers, and planters verse immigrants

Immigrant

- * Defined as one who settles permanently in a foreign country or region.
- * In colonial America, those who arrived in America following the Revolutionary War were considered immigrants.
 - * **BRITISH-AMERICANS**
 - * **CANADIAN-AMERICANS**
 - * **FRENCH-AMERICANS**
 - * **DUTCH-AMERICANS**
 - * **GERMAN-AMERICANS**
 - * **IRISH-AMERICANS**
 - * **ITALIAN-AMERICANS**
 - * **POLISH-AMERICANS**
 - * **MIDDLE EASTERN-AMERICANS**

Colonial America

- ★ Foundation: English/England
- ★ Englishman had no desire to lose their English's
 - ★ Build a better England
 - ★ One that would be free of the imperfections of their native land
 - ★ One that would give them greater opportunities for personal happiness

Colonial America

* Puritans and Pilgrims

- * Sought out the wilderness to be truly free of European decadence
- * Their Ideology:
 - * Protestant Faith
 - * Diligent application to work
 - * Individual accomplishment
 - * Anglo-Saxon legal heritage
 - * Written compact
 - * English Language

Colonial America

- ★ Influences - Factors that influenced the way of life of new arrivals
 - * Learning from those already here
 - * The environment they found
 - * Traditions they brought with them
- ★ Divergence from the “Homeland” - Three main reasons for divergence
 - * English society not transplanted as a whole
 - * New World- unfamiliar environment
 - * Countries other than England

Colonial America

* Puritanism

- Puritanism remained affected the outlook of most Americans for many generations in the form of attitudes that were real though hard to define
 - Sense of duty
 - Hard work and success as its own reward
 - Mission to make the world a better place

Colonial America

- ✿ Non-English Groups - Colonial immigrants who came to be considered native born
 - ✿ Scotch-Irish - 250,000 constituted the largest non-English protestants
 - ✿ German- 200,00 the second most significant European minority
- ✿ Non-Protestant Groups
 - ✿ 98% of colonial America belonged to one protestant sect or another. 1.4% embraced Roman Catholicism, 0.12% embraced Judaism



Early Americans Common Traits

- ★ Idealism
- ★ Flexibility
- ★ Adaptability to change
- ★ High respect for personal achievement
- ★ Dependency on self and immediate fame versus wider community
- ★ Tendency to conform to the values of peers and neighbors versus stubbornly clinging to traditions or ancestral ways



European American Common Experience/Displacement

- ✿ Immigrant Experience- Reasons for immigration to America
 - ✿ Religious persecution freedom of worship
 - ✿ Political oppression refuge from tyranny
 - ✿ Economic hardships - Factors most compelling factor for most immigrants
 - ✿ American letters the most powerful selling point, letters were passed from family to family, published in newspapers, discussed in church



European American Common Experience/Displacement

- ✿ The Voyage - this presented travelers with unanticipated hardships
 - ✿ Saving money for passage
 - ✿ Saying good-bye to family and friends
 - ✿ No guarantees the ships would sail, extra days= \$\$
 - ✿ Long time on ship that were overcrowded and disease ridden

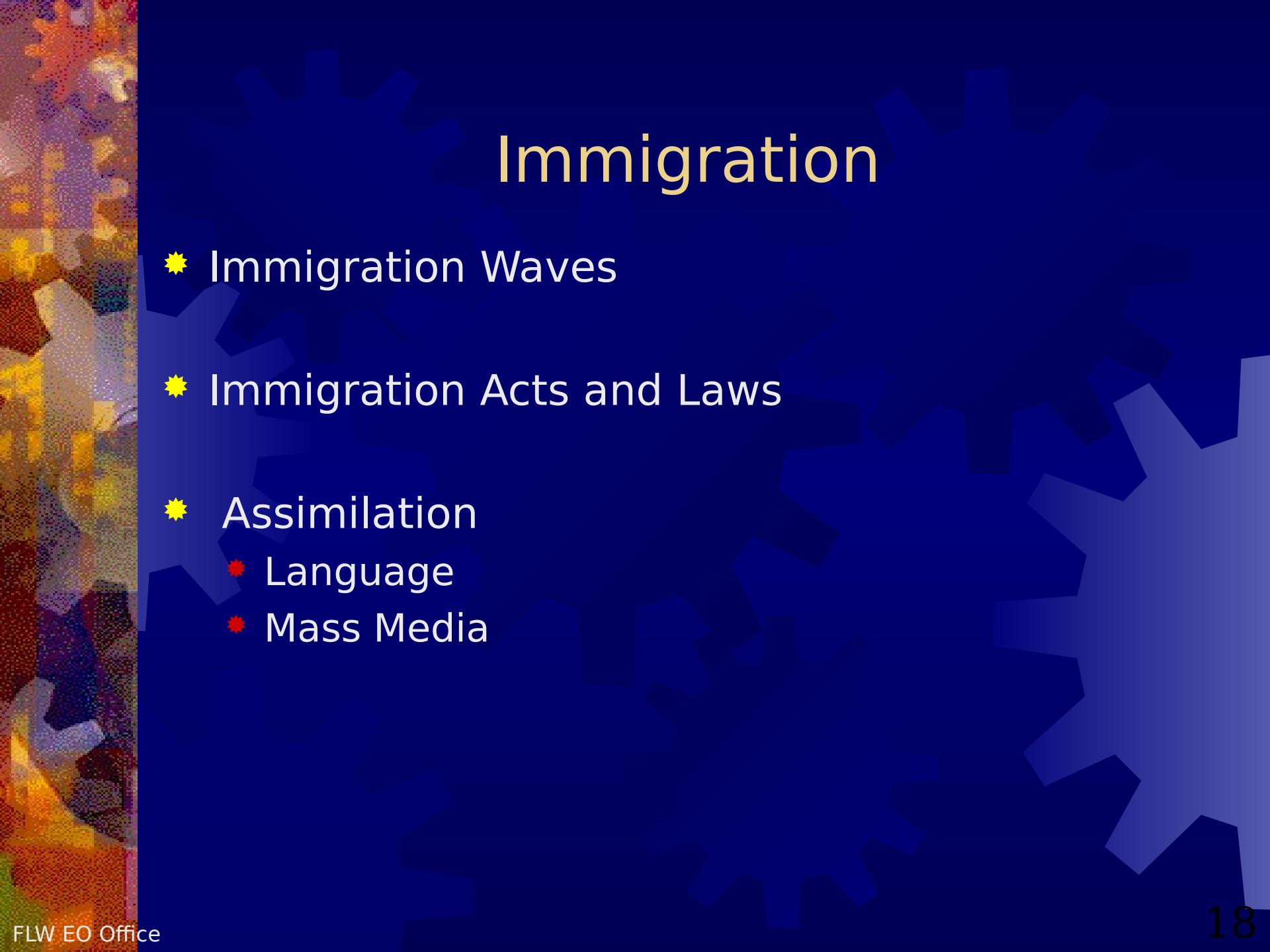


European American Common Experience/Displacement

- ✿ America's conscience and servitude
- ✿ Indentured Servitude - Most common way of getting to the colonies
 - ✿ Outlawed in 1820, printed contracts were common as early as 1636
 - ✿ Normally for four years
 - ✿ “Freedom Dues” Money, clothes, land at the end of the contract
 - ✿ Often auctioned off to highest bidder

Redemptioners

- ★ Developed in 1708 when Swiss and Germans begin to emigrate
- ★ Emigrants traveled to many ports and paid tolls
- ★ Money was gone by the time they reached shipping ports, shipper took what was left giving two weeks to get the money to “REDEEM” themselves: Those who couldn’t pay were sold into servitude (2 yr.)
- ★ CONVICT LABOR: Most colonist thought poorly of the servants, “Useless there = Useless here”
- ★ THE DILEMMA: The same men that saw the disparity between the ideals of democracy, convict and indentured labor, condoned slavery.



Immigration

- ★ Immigration Waves
- ★ Immigration Acts and Laws
- ★ Assimilation
 - ★ Language
 - ★ Mass Media

Contemporary America

- ✿ Contemporary America
 - ✿ Family Patterns- despite changes the White American family has remained nuclear
 - ✿ Educational Patterns- Constant theme of textbooks is national unity rather than diversity, culture of ideas
 - ✿ Poverty- Although the poverty rate for whites was lower than that for other groups the majority of poor persons in 1990 were white (66.5%)
- ✿ Current Status of White Americans (1989 census)
 - ✿ 249 Mil. total Americans 84% (209 Mil.)were white
 - ✿ Not projected to grow as much as other groups

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